



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

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Letter from [John Muir] to [?] Aimers, 1912 Jun 20.

John Muir

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c12

Hollywood, Cal., June 20, 1912.

1525 Formosa Ave.

My dear Aimers:-

I arrived home in blessed California in a little over a year after leaving it, after a grand time in your South America and in Africa. Here is an outline sketch of the whole trip, some of the brightest spots of which I owe to your kindness.

After a few extremely interesting days in and about Rio de Janeiro I went to Santos. Thence into the interior of the State of Parana, where I found extensive forests of the magnificent *Araucaria Braziliensis*, a species that I have long wished to see growing in its native primeval woods. Thence I returned by way of Curitiba to the Port of Paranaguá and sailed thence to Montevideo and Buenos Aires, touching at a great many interesting ports by the way. The mountains remarkably bold, and show glacial features on a grand scale all the way to Santa Catarina and some distance beyond. From Buenos Aires I crossed the Andes to Santiago, Chili, looking for another tree that I had had on my mind for a long time. After a long search I at last discovered ^{it,} the *Araucaria imbricata* five hundred miles south of Santiago near the snow line, where it forms most striking woods. Thence returning to Buenos Aires I crossed over to Montevideo and saw something of the country to the northward for a few days.

At Montevideo I wanted to go to Cape Town. Had to go to Teneriffe to catch a steamer from England. This made a very

long roundabout voyage of thirty-two days. From Cape Town I went to the Victoria Falls on the Zambesi, a distance of about thirteen hundred miles. When a short distance from the famous falls I found another great tree that I had long desired to see, the baobab, a wonderful fellow. Found it also at Zanzibar, at Des er Salaam, and at Mombasa. From Victoria Falls I went down to Southern Rhodesia to Beira on the East coast. Thence to Mombasa. Thence by rail up through the game region where Roosevelt hunted. Saw thousands of antelopes and zebras on the Athi plains, etc. etc. Thence to Port Florence on the Victoria Nyanza, a region I had long wished to see. Thence to the lower end of the Great Lake to Entebbe, Kampali, and Jinji, and in a short walk from Jinji I saw the remarkable Ripon Falls, the outlet of the lake and main head fountain of the famous Nile. Saw the river starting on its long journey of between three and four thousand miles. Thence returned to Mombasa where I got another steamer and sailed for Naples around by the Red Sea. From Naples, after visiting the famous Vesuvius, Pompeii, and sailing from point to point on the beautiful bay, I sailed to New York, and thence had only the continent to cross to get home.

I am now writing up some notes, but when they will be ready for publication I do not know. I will be glad to send you a copy but it will be a long time before anything is arranged in book form.

I hope you are well, and when you get tired of your wonderful river and its rubber I shall hope to see you in California. In the meantime write me a long letter and give me all of the news you can gather about the good people I met. Of course you know that I shall be glad to get any photographs of Brazilian trees you may chance to get. After hearing from you I shall

take pleasure in sending you my Yosemite book which has just been published.

With kindest remembrances to all the good people who were so kind to me in Para, and with all good wishes, dear Aimers, I am,

Ever faithfully yours,